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16 April 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration
THROUGH: Deputy Director for Science and Technology
SUBJECT: Medical Support

1. Paragraph 6 contains a recommendation for your action.
2. On occasion CIA employees on PCS or TDY abroad return home afflicted with some exotic ailment. I recently returned from such a TDY to be told by Agency doctors and a Georgetown specialist that I had "African virus" for which they had no remedy. Their suggested treatment was to "wait and see what happens."
3. I have no quarrel with the quality of their medical opinion; it is not surprising that such diseases should be unfamiliar to American doctors. They doubtless are less unfamiliar to doctors in the foreign countries involved, i.e., qualified African doctors probably have ample experience with "African virus."
4. I suggested in my case that OMS describe the symptoms in terms another doctor would understand and have the Stations in the countries I had visited get a local, qualified medical opinion as to whether the symptoms were recognized and what the recommended treatment might be. For reasons obscure to me, OMS was extremely reluctant to do this.
5. It is my observation that we are quick to ask Stations about the whereabouts of household effects or about delays in arrival of POVs. I see no reason not to take similar initiatives when the health of employees is in the balance. My experience is personal, but it would seem to have potential application to all employees whose work takes them abroad.

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6. I recommend that GMS be encouraged if not instructed to use Station facilities to consult with foreign doctors in the interests of the health and morale of CIA employees afflicted in the course of their official duty.

151

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CONCUR:

Deputy Director for Science and Technology

18 APR 1979

Date

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